

Remarks/Arguments:

Claim 51-53, 56-58 and 75 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tani, et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,294,910). It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are now patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 51, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

. . . a metal terminal . . .

. . . an entire surface of said terminal is coated with a metal having a melting point of 500° C or below. . .

This feature is supported by the originally-filed Application in Figures 26 and 28 and by the Description at page 47, lines 11-13 and page 48, line 1. No new matter has been added.

As set forth in the Application at page 48, line 3 et. seq.:

The use of a metal with a low melting point prevents degradation of resistance characteristics due to oxidation of terminals or resistor element at connecting terminals and resistor elements, which may occur if a metal with a high melting point is used for coating the terminals.

As the feature of a coating with a melting point of 500° or below is neither disclosed nor suggested by Tani, claim 51 is patentable over Tani.

Applicants have made similar amendments to claims 56 and 75. Thus, these claims are also patentable for the reasons set forth above.

The remaining dependent claims are all patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims. Thus, those claims are also patentable for the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

Claims 75 and 79 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 06283301A. Claim 75, however, has again been amended to recite a metal coating having a melting point of 500° or below. As this feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by JP

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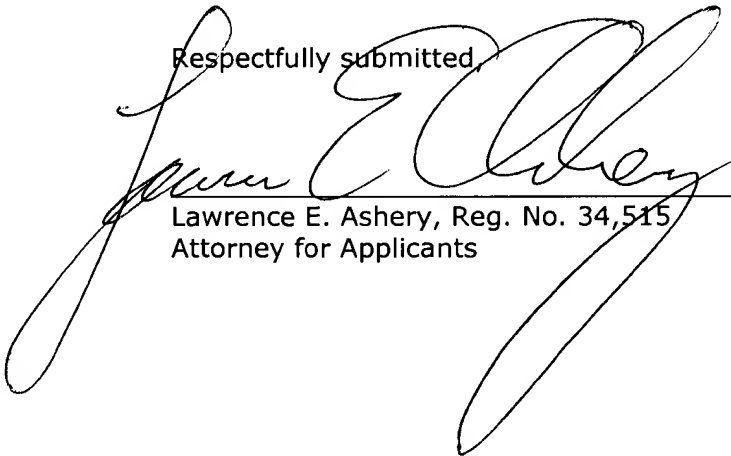
06283301A, claim 75 is patentable over this reference. Claim 79 is also patentable by virtue of its dependency on allowable claim 75.

Claims 51, 53, 55, 56, and 77 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kimura, et al (U.S. Patent No. 5, 907, 274). Again, these claims are patentable by virtue of including the feature of a coating with a melting point of 500° C or less.

Claims 54, 59 and 85 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tani, et al in view of Smith, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,379,016). These claims, however, include all the features of the respective independent claims from which they depend. Thus, these claims are also patentable over the art of record.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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